rate has come down substantially from 91 to 80 per thousand births.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It has come down marginally, not substantially. I have the figure with me. (*interruptions*)

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: I want to know whether, in future, separate information can be asked in respect of Infant Mortality from different sources and kept separately. Is it possible to have the number of Infant Mortality rate in respect of the tribal areas in future?

MR. SPEAKER : It should be possible.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Sir, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked the question that I should not have said 'substantially'. I will leave the word to him whether it should be 'substantially' or 'marginally'. I can tell him that in 1989, the IMR was 91; in 1990 it was 80. I leave the judgement to him whether it is substantial or it is marginal.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is marginal.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I accept the word. Secondly, the hon. Member has asked about the tribal areas. In the tribal areas also it is coming down. Efforts are being made so that the tribal areas in Orissa are looked after.

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the areas where child development scheme have been launched, the child is not being developed but the employees and officers are reaping harvest as the funds being made available to them for the child development is not being used for children and instead it is being used by employees and officers themselves. The employees and officers embezzle all the material and do not give it to children and mothers. Has the Government framed a scheme to check it?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Anyway, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Educationally Backward Districts

*576. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educationally backward districts in the country;

(b) the action plan for ensuring education for all by 2000 A. D.; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) From the point of view of incidence of illiteracy there are 269 districts which have the literacy rate below the national average.

(b) and (c). The Plan of Action for ensuring Education for all by 2000 AD includes the following:

(i) Universal access to elementary education for all children upto 14 years of age, by providing primary schools within 1 km. distance for all habitations with a population of 300 (200 in cased of tribal hilly and desert areas during the VIIIth Plan.

(ii) Universal participation till they complete primary education through formal or non-formal education programmes, by reducing the dropout rates between Classes I to V and I to VIII from the existing

45% and 60% to 20% and 40% respectively by the end of the VIIIth Plan.

(iii) Achievement of minimum leave of learning by approximately all children at the primary levels.

(iv) Imparting of functional literacy to all adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group by launching Total Literacy Campaigns in all parts of the country.

(v) Implementing comprehensive programmes for post literacy and Continuing Education in all areas/ districts covered by the Total Literacy Campaigns.

(vi) Adoption of strategies to improve planning mechanism, including the following:

(a) District-wise planning based on special local needs of districts classified as (i) High Literacy Districts, (ii) Total Literacy Campaign Districts, and (iii) Low Literacy Districts; and

(b) Micro-planning for family-wise and child wise design of action through community participation.

Ashram Pathshalas

*578. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposal to open Ashram Pathshalas in the backward regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have received requests in this regard from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government has no such propose under consideration.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Railway Schools

*581. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening railway schools;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such schools Keeping in view the number of children of railway employees and their requirement;

(c) if so, the details of railway schools proposed to be opened zone-wise along with the locations thereof;

(d) whether there is also any scheme to upgrade the exusting railway schools;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Provision of Education of facilities is the responsibility of State Governments/Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Railways have set up a few schools within the limited re-